

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 12, 1992

Published Since 1877

## N.O. missionary answers question by staying at downtown mission

By Sarah Zimmerman  
NEW ORLEANS — "When are you leaving?"

The question was more of an accusation than a search for information.

Having witnessed parades of people walk in and out of their lives, children in downtown New Orleans asked Larry Miguez when he was leaving in the practically same breath that they said hello.

To their surprise, the home missionary stayed for 17 years.

Miguez, director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans, encountered the inner city as a student intern from New Orleans Seminary. He graduated from the seminary but not the city.

The native of Port Arthur, Tex., says his community is typical of any mission with a downtown zip code.

**"It's not over at nine when you close the doors."**

— Miguez

More than 56,000 people representing 19 ethnic groups live in the seven blocks between the mission and the Mississippi River. The mission is four blocks from the second largest housing project in the city. High school dropouts, illiteracy, poverty, crime, and drug abuse are everyday problems.

Rather than retreating to the suburbs at the end of every work day, Miguez lives within a block of the mission.

"My idea of ministry is that it's not over at nine when you close the doors," Miguez says.

Miguez is the legal guardian for three boys from the community, in-



**ATHLETIC OUTREACH** — Sports are the drawing card for youths at Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans. Home missionary Larry Miguez, right, says athletic programs can double attendance at Bible studies. But the center does not have a gym, so Miguez can only lead sports activities when the weather is nice enough to use a nearby park. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

cluding one who has lived with him for 11 years.

One of the boys staying with Miguez is a high school senior. His mother has been in jail for murder. Last fall, four of his brothers were incarcerated. He will be the first in his family to graduate from high school.



**'ROUND THE CLOCK MINISTRY** — Larry Miguez, standing on the steps, surprised children in downtown New Orleans when he moved into their community rather than leaving after a few months. As director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission, Miguez says his idea of ministry is, "It's not over at nine when you close the doors." (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

"We have a good group of young people who come to the mission," Miguez says. "Most of them make an attempt to get out of this environment, but it's very, very hard to change when you're living in a bad situation."

It can also be hard to be upbeat. "I just can't dwell on the magnitude of the problems," Miguez says. "There are too many needs and problems to think about it continuously."

Week-day programs for preschoolers through senior adults and church services on Sunday are available at the 42-year-old mission center. But by far the most popular activities are youth sports.

Softball, volleyball, basketball, and track are the center's drawing cards. "When the sports programs are going, it can double our Bible study attendance," Miguez says.

The mission does not have a gym, so the weather sets the sports schedule.

Miguez and the mission are supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and the Cooperative Program. While Miguez is indebted to Southern Baptists, he says prayer enables him to stay in the inner city.

"I would have been out a long time ago without prayer support," he says. "If you want to be extra extravagant in mission support, pray another five minutes every day for your missionaries."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## Courageous MK ends battle with leukemia

By Marty Croll

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP) — Trevor Woods, 16-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan, died Feb. 22 after a courageous eight-month fight with leukemia.

Doctors told his parents, Tony and Marsha Woods of Evergreen, Colo., they had never seen a more mature response than Trevor's when they told him days before his death his blood was half cancerous and he was about to die.

"It's okay if I die. I'm ready to die," he said. "But I want to die in Japan, and I want to be buried in Japan."

Trevor was born in San Francisco but, except for furloughs in the United States, had lived in Japan since the Woods began their church-starting missionary career when he was 3.

"He had three best friends in Japan — Japanese he grew up with," Mrs. Woods said. "They've all become Christians through the years."

"They're buddies; best, best friends. They're kind of 'the gang' at church."

The four boys had decided early they would all be baptized, although one boy's parents held out until just last year before allowing their son to become a Christian, she said. The group planned to form a Christian rock band and then be together throughout eternity.

Unable to make the trip to Japan, Trevor lay in a coma in a Colorado hospital for three days before his parents realized he was waiting to experience one last time with his buddies. The Woodses arranged for them to talk to him over the phone. About

30 minutes later, Trevor died.

The Woodses were preparing to return to Japan last July after their third furlough when their son was diagnosed as having leukemia.

The following months brought much pain as the disease and chemotherapy treatments progressed.

At the hospital, Trevor's character prevailed. "He would just attach himself to little children. He would tell me he would pray for these children because he'd hear them crying," his mother said. "He really had a heart like that."

At a young age, Trevor "had become aware that his life's calling" was to be a missionary. "He was really committed to that," she said.

During Christmas, Trevor told his parents that 1991 was the best year of his life. Trevor loved cars, "anything with wheels," she said.

Just before he became ill, Trevor had learned to drive. He drove much of the way to Alaska on a three-week camping trip with his parents and 11-year-old brother, Nathan.

As soon as he was diagnosed with leukemia, his father called a dealer and arranged a ride for him in a Ferrari. "He thought it was a ball, the fact that the guy said, 'Don't tell your parents we went 120 miles an hour,'" Mrs. Woods said. "We were all a little envious."

The Woodses ask that anyone wanting to give memorial gifts make a donation through the Foreign Mission Board for work in Taitomi, Japan.

Croll writes for FMB.

## Dutch aid arrives in Moldavia despite dangers, delays, bandits

BOSCH EN DUIN, THE NETHERLANDS (EBPS) — The Baptist Union of the Netherlands has been active in the 'Food Parcels for Eastern Europe' program of the European Baptist Federation.

In 1991, Dutch Baptists became motivated to act when they learned of the difficult situation in Moldavia, a republic in the former Soviet Union. They decided to target the republic with food parcels and clothes, coordinating their efforts with European Baptist Federation General Secretary Karl-Heinz Walter.

On Dec. 9, 1991, two trucks left Holland filled with 2,000 parcels, clothes, Bibles, and 500 pairs of shoes. The Dutch Christians prayed with the four drivers, all Baptists, and sent them off for the long journey to Kishinev, the Moldavian capital. They had no idea how much the prayers would be appreciated.

They encountered their first problem when the shipment was delayed 30 hours at the Polish/Russian border. When they were finally allowed to cross the border, the other truckers became angry because some of them had been waiting as long as three days.

Upon reaching Moldavia on Friday the 13th of December after many hours of hard driving, the four looked for a safe place to park their trucks and sleep. Because of the danger of bandits and marauders along the road, they remained in their trucks, even when they heard noises outside during the night.

"When they awoke the next morning, the men discovered that thieves had taken about 100 food parcels and some boxes of clothes," said Jan Aaldring, coordinator of the project.

Since each box contained a Bible, the men are happy that the Word of God would nevertheless spread, said Aaldring.

Their next problem would be locating the church in Kishinev. They had no idea that members were at the church praying for their arrival. None knew the exact day the trucks would arrive. They only knew several Dutch vehicles would be arriving soon in Kishinev.

**The shipment was delayed 30 hours at the Polish/Russian border; thieves took 100 food parcels, each containing a Bible; but almost 2,000 food parcels arrived in Moldavia in December.**

One Moldavian believer named Popovitch, who worked in the Baptist Union office, drove out of town to meet the trucks on the road. When he identified the Dutch license plates and guessed these were the Baptists from Holland, he began trying to get them to stop in order to explain the way to their destination. The truck drivers, meanwhile, suspecting the person was another bandit, kept driving.

After passing them several times and making various attempts to communicate with them, Popovitch finally held a Bible out of the window of his car. That convinced the Dutch travellers who then were led to the Baptist Church of Kishinev.

Aaldring said Dutch Baptists and EBF are organizing a second shipment to Moldavia in early March.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The need of doctrines

The apostle Paul gave us a clear definition of the gospel:

Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the  
scriptures  
he was buried,  
he was raised on the third day  
in accordance with the  
scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3).

The apostle's "in accordance with the scriptures" spells out the importance of the Bible as well as linking it with faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible is constantly being thrust into the forefront of religious discussions and a high view of God's Word is essential if we remain true to the Word. God has spoken and "in these last days spoken unto us by his son." The Son came to bring the highest revelation of God. We have this revelation recorded for us in the Bible.

Many of our churches will be engaged in studying the doctrine of the Bible as the 1992 doctrinal study. David S. Dockery's book, *The Doctrine of the Bible*, comes highly recommended.

James T. Draper, president of the Sunday School Board, says "it is a brief but comprehensive book" and Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary, declares, "It affirms the uniqueness and authority of the Bible and persuasion." Dockery is on the faculty of Southern Seminary, and previously served with the Sunday School Board.

Ten preview clinics will be conducted across Mississippi in March to train teachers for this vital study. Strong doctrinal teaching can save us from errors, help us to battle the forces of evil, and give to us the joy and contentment of Christ. Augustine of the early church said, "Therefore we yield to and agree to the authority of the holy Scriptures which can neither be deceived nor deceive."

We need this study in our churches. It should receive the same prayerful promotion as a revival meeting. Get the people to participate in reading the Word during the worship services. Let the urgency be made known. May

the experience of Timothy be an experience for our children. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15).

Jesus assuredly had a view of Scripture and we would do well to consider it. His attitude toward the Old Testament, toward his own teaching, and toward the continuing witness of his disciples after the resurrection was one of trustworthiness. The Word is a lamp and a light. He told the Sadducees, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God" (Matt. 2:29).

We have an excellent opportunity to learn more of the Bible and strengthen the theological stance of our congregation. Because some men have chosen to attack the Bible and others to ignore it should not lessen our desire to accept it, believe it, and practice it.

## FMB makes special prayer request

By Bill Peacock

For more than 500 years there has been no significant Christian witness among the peoples of Central Asia, but in God's timing unlimited opportunities are now available to share Christ's love. To do this, a large number of personnel will be needed. Opportunities abound for evangelical Christians willing to use their resources in Central Asia. The institute, working with the Presidential Institute of Business, teaching opportunities are available in a variety of fields, including marketing, management, computer science, finance, and economics. In addition to that, several Southern Baptist workers teach in the Kazakh-American International Business Institute which opened Nov. 18. The first courses included English, international trade, marketing, business ethics, accounting, and finance. This was taken in cooperation with the Kazakh government and supported through the CSI office at the Foreign Mission Board.

Brian Grim, who directs the work in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, says that the high ranking Kazakh leaders are more aware of the help that Southern Baptists can offer because of the highly successful Kazakh-American festival last June.

During that two-week period 330 Southern Baptists teamed up with Kazakhs in a host of humanitarian, cultural, and economic projects. Grim also issued an urgent call for two-year Southern Baptist personnel to lead outreach projects throughout Kazakhstan. Experienced church planters are needed to serve as coaches for teams of local believers. Among other short-term opportunities Christians can be involved in cultural exchanges, Christian music tours, and evangelistic meetings. Career positions are available in a variety of areas that Southern Baptists will now have opened, and will need to be pur-

sued if a person is interested in doing so.

Brian Grim also highlighted plans for additional cultural and economic exchanges with the United States. Pray for 600 to 1,000 Kazakhs that will be coming to America in the next 12 months, a wonderful opportunity of witness as they touch shoulders with Southern Baptists here in the United States.

In the planning stage is another cultural festival where about 300 Kazakhs will be coming to the state of Pennsylvania and other places under direction of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist convention. Representatives of various Christians organizations are planning for a large-scale trans-Asia project of 1993. Dur-

ing that time, thousands of Christians will be presenting a witness to the people of Central Asia using the same format as the festival of last summer but will touch 400 different cities.

Please pray for the Kazakhs that are coming to America who will be coming in contact with our Christian witness here. Pray for the needed personnel in the different business institutes, some for long-term, and some for short-term work.

Also pray for future planning as the gospel is presented in Central Asia in an unprecedented manner. If you are interested in any of these projects, call the Foreign Mission Board, CSI office, by dialing (804) 353-0151. We are grateful for your prayers.

Peacock is with the Volunteers in Missions Department, FMB.

## New records

Polly McNabb, associate editor of the California Southern Baptist will retire July 31, after 43 years with the paper. Polly said if her mother had picked out blue booties instead of pink ones, she would have been editor of the paper.

Meanwhile, across the continent, Amanda Gower has completed 40 years with the North Carolina Baptist Recorder as administrative assistant. She is described as a walking Baptist encyclopedia by her editor, R. G. Puckett.

Sandwiched between the Atlantic and Pacific we have the Gulf stream waters and Anne W. McWilliams, who has been with the Baptist Record for 39 years. Anne has covered Mississippi and much of the world for the paper. She writes with clarity and distinction and is a favorite among our readers. Keep it up, Anne; we love you.

## New look

Our readers may have noticed a difference in the look of the Baptist Record lately. This difference is due to our conversion to a desktop publishing system, a far cry from the "paste-ups" we have used for many years.

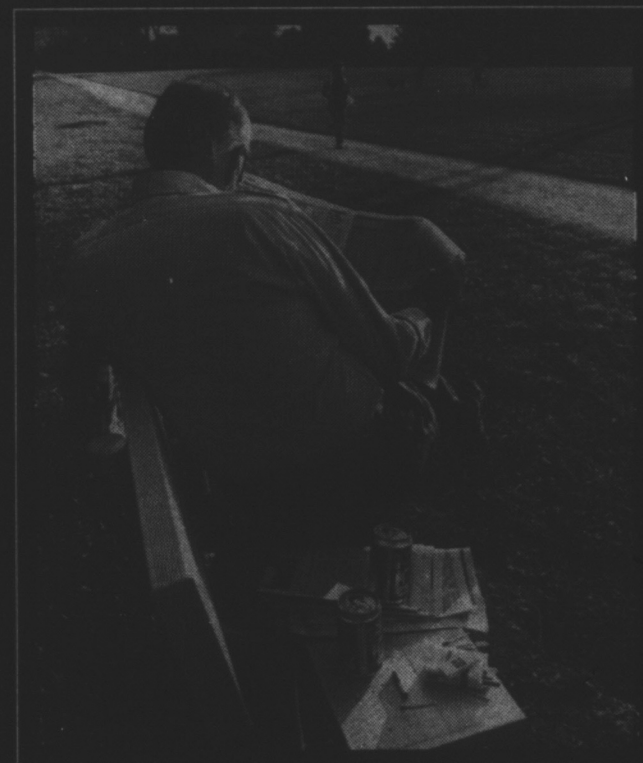
The typefaces on certain pages will be a bit larger, the spacing a bit roomier. As we continue to experiment, please let us know if our changes increase your reading enjoyment, or make it more difficult. We welcome your input, and strive to make the Baptist Record an appealing new vehicle.

— GH

— GH

'Glorify God in your body'

1 Cor. 6:20



Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday  
March 15, 1992

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

From CLC

## Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday

The healthiest looking people star in advertisements for the deadliest products. Have you ever noticed that? Have you noticed that glamorous women and handsome men are used to sell alcoholic beverages and tobacco products? Have you noticed that the disease-promoting industries hawk their products with race car drivers, mountain climbers, sandlot softball players, hikers and cowboys, all of whom are young, in great shape and full of vigor?

Like the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, America's youth are seduced by media campaigns with delightful-looking people consuming carefree-looking products which are ever so deadly. The truth is hidden behind healthy bodies.

The first and second leading causes of premature death in the United States are tobacco and alcohol. Tobacco causes well over 1,000 needless deaths every day, for an annual death toll of 390,000. The death toll forces the tobacco industry to replace each former customer every day with another customer.

Alcohol causes almost 100,000 deaths every year. Drunk-driving crashes take 25,000 deaths annually, while diseases, homicides and suicides reap the rest. Heavy-drinking problems cost billions of dollars, cause ill health and break up families.

Another alcohol-related problem is Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. FAS is one of the three leading known causes of

birth defects with accompanying mental retardation. Its prevention seems simple: Pregnant women should not drink any alcohol.

What should Christians do to curb the almost half-a-million deaths annually which come from these two products? First, we should review the biblical witness. The Bible speaks for physical health: "Glorify God in your body." The body is the sanctuary of God's spirit. As such, we should use, not abuse, our whole being for the purpose of God. Even the biblical concept of salvation means wholeness which includes sound bodies.

Second, we should unmask the ads for alcohol and tobacco. Tell your children that the ads are untrue, that the lifestyles they portray may become a false god (Ex. 20:3). Ask billboard companies not to sell space for tobacco and alcohol ads near schools, churches, and civic centers. Request college and professional sports teams not to accept money from these disease-promoting companies.

Third, we should support local, state, and federal legislation designed to restrict ads for tobacco and alcohol. Also, we should back efforts to rein in the use of these products.

On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday, glorify God with your commitment to personal good health and with a pledge to fight the spread of disease-promoting products.

(This article was prepared by Christian Life Commission, SBC.)

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# North Carolina church votes to "bless" union of gays

RALEIGH, N.C. (ABP) — By a margin of almost two-to-one, a Southern Baptist church in North Carolina voted to conduct a service blessing the union of two homosexual men.

Although not a marriage ceremony, the service at Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh apparently represents the first time a Southern Baptist church has formally endorsed a homosexual relationship. No date for the service has been set.

Even before the vote was announced March 1, the church's action drew the ire of Southern Baptist leaders.

A resolution passed in February by

the SBC Executive Committee condemns Pullen for condoning "the gross perversion and unquestioned sin" of homosexuality. The committee also denounced another North Carolina church, Olin T. Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill, which will consider in April whether to give a gay divinity student a license to preach.

The Executive Committee also is trying to exclude churches that affirm homosexuality from membership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Members of Pullen Memorial Church defied those criticisms, however, approving the "blessing"

ceremony by secret mail ballot. Sixty-four percent voted in favor.

In addition to blessing the union, church members voted to accept gays into "full membership" (94%) and voted to establish a church document which will include an example of a ceremony of blessing, "along with its biblical, theological and historical underpinnings" (75%).

"We all regret the media attention and the strong, sometimes negative, reactions from the community and the larger Baptist family," Siler said.

Despite differences of opinion within the church, members seemed ready to accept the decision.

Two North Carolina Baptist leaders defended the right of the church to make its own decisions but voiced strong personal objections to the action.

"The precious principles of soul liberty and church autonomy have the potential for grave error," wrote R. G. Puckett, editor of the North Carolina Baptist state paper. Pullen Church is "dead wrong," Puckett wrote.

Roy Smith, executive director of North Carolina Baptist Convention, released a statement upholding church autonomy and "the worth of every individual." But Smith added, "My personal understanding of the

New Testament compels me to reject the homosexual lifestyle based on several passages of Scripture."

This is not the first time Mahan Siler has encountered controversy because of his stance on Christian ministry to homosexuals.

In 1988, he wrote an article in *Baptists Today* urging churches to minister redemptively to homosexuals. Because of that article, Siler was removed from the list of adjunct professors at Southeastern Seminary.

This article by Jack Harwell of *BAPTISTS TODAY* includes information from Donna Seese of the Raleigh *NEWS AND OBSERVER*.

The Second Front Page

## The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 12, 1992

Published Since 1877

# Hinson to leave Southern for Richmond seminary

By Greg Warner and Marv Knox

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Saying he has reached "a point of saturation" with attacks against him, Glenn Hinson has decided to leave Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., after 30 years of teaching.

Hinson, professor of church history at Southern since 1962, is expected to be named professor of spirituality and church history at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.). Trustees of the Richmond seminary will be asked to approve Hinson's hiring when they meet April 6-7.

The departure of Hinson will mean four church history professors have left the school in a year. Only one professor remains in the department.

Hinson, 60, has been a favorite target of Southern Baptist fundamental-conservatives for more than a decade, particularly for his writings on the deity of Christ.

He became the focal point of an international controversy last October, when trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board discovered he was teaching temporarily at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, while on sabbatical from Southern.

Angry FMB trustees voted to cut all FMB funding of the Ruschlikon seminary, sparking a dispute between Baptists in Europe and America that FMB administrators say "has brought crisis to our world mission program."

Hinson said trustees at Southern "are more interested in indoctrination than in education now."

"An educator and education requires freedom," he said. "Under the present board of trustees, it is impossible to exercise the kind of freedom that is necessary in the classroom, in writing or anything else

one might do."

Southern Provost Larry McSwain disagreed. "I haven't seen any evidence of trustee intervention in the classroom," he said.

McSwain added, however, there is more trustee scrutiny of what a professor writes or says in public, such as Hinson's 1977 book that has been the basis for all trustee complaints. "There probably is less freedom to be controversial," the provost said.

McSwain suggested Hinson may have "misinterpreted" the warning issued by trustee leaders recently, which McSwain said was not a threat but a purposely "ambiguous" statement "designed to close the door" on past accusations.

According to McSwain, the warning said that if Hinson were teaching what he had been accused of teaching, he would have been in violation of the seminary's governing theological document and subject to dismissal. However, McSwain added, Hinson was misinterpreted by his critics. "If they had interpreted him correctly, he would be in violation," McSwain said.

Hinson said the dispute over his teaching at Ruschlikon was related to the warning issued by Southern. Both were "part of a carefully orchestrated series of attacks on me," he said, noting the same charges and quotations were used in both instances.

"On the positive side," Hinson continued, "the Baptist Seminary at Richmond offers an opportunity to continue the heritage that we have known as Southern Seminary."

"I think there are very important things that the (Richmond) seminary can be for the future. Baptists in the South are undergoing a reforming."

"And Richmond will play an important role in that whole process."

The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond opened last fall with about 30 students. The faculty is com-



MOUNT HAGEN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA — Richard Barnes, right, youth curriculum editor at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, leads a session on developing curriculum for Baptists from throughout Papua, New Guinea during a Christian Writers and Communicators Conference sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance. (Story on page 12.) — BP photo by Jim Veneman.

## Allen resigns at Southern, accepts position in Clinton

RICHMOND (ABP) — Loyd Allen, an associate professor of church history at Southern Seminary, submitted his resignation March 5 to become chairman of the department of religion and philosophy at Mississippi College, Clinton.

Allen's resignation was announced March 5 in the same faculty meeting in which Southern professors received a press release regarding Glenn Hinson's departure. But Allen said his decision to take the Mississippi College post was not dependent on Hinson's.

"Had he decided to stay or go, that would not have made a difference in my decision," said Allen, who will begin his new job in August.

Allen, 40, acknowledged the stresses of controversy at Southern Seminary played some part in his decision to leave, but he said Mississippi College also offers numerous attractions.

"Any time you go toward a job, the context of the job you're leaving matters," he said. "There has been considerable stress at Southern Seminary; that's not news. That's a factor in my decision, but it's only one factor in interpreting my call to Mississippi College."

In addition to chairing the department of religion and philosophy at the Mississippi Baptist school, Allen will teach courses in New Testament, Old Testament and church history, his academic specialty.

In departing, Allen had positive words for Southern Seminary.

"I leave with a sense of support for the faculty and administration of Southern Seminary and a sense of hope about the future of this institution," he noted. "I do care about this school. I would continue to recommend students to this school."

## CP total for February drops

NASHVILLE (BP) — The SBC Cooperative Program total for February dropped more than 12% but designated gifts received by the Executive Committee rose nearly 8%, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

CP total for February was \$11,988,817 compared to the same month in 1991 of \$13,682,655 or a 12.38% decrease. For the SBC fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, the Cooperative Program was down slightly, 0.63%, at

\$57,954,409 compared to \$58,323,609 for the comparable year-to-date.

The drop in February receipts followed a huge, 20.99%, increase in CP gifts in January. The 1991-92 monthly basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is \$11,725,856.

Designated gifts were up \$2,916,909 for February, 7.69%, for a total of \$40,831,809 for the month compared to \$37,914,890 a year ago. Designated gifts for the year-to-date were up 11.80% at \$66,213,413 compared to a year ago at \$59,225,459.

## Joe Cothen resigns at N.O. seminary

Joe Cothen, vice president for academic affairs, New Orleans Seminary, has offered his resignation effective immediately. He has taught

for 18 years as professor of pastoral work. More details will be offered in next week's issue of the Baptist Record.

(See HINSON on page 8)

## Land, Chapman bash Bush

By Ray Waddle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Two Southern Baptist leaders are warning President Bush that he is quickly losing the trust of evangelical voters after Bush's campaign chairman held a meeting with national gay activists.

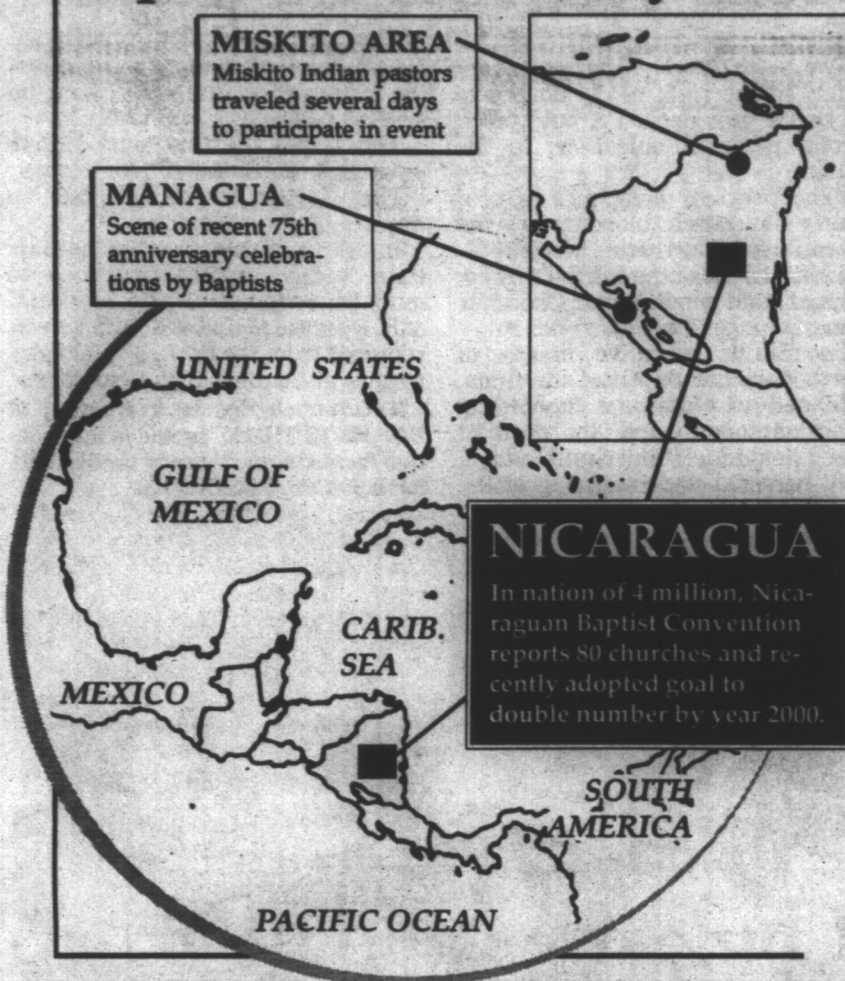
Many conservative Christian voters, previously seen as supporting Bush, are turning to challenger Pat

Buchanan, partly because of Bush's "hypocrisy" in "courting" a gay and lesbian group recently, one Baptist executive argued.

"People who campaign for office as pro-family and pro-traditional values are engaging in hypocrisy when they court people whose lifestyle is not pro- (See BUSH on page 8)



## Baptists celebrate 75 years



The 75th anniversary of the beginning of Baptist work in Nicaragua was celebrated in mid-February with a parade through the streets of Managua and a rally at a city stadium. Southern Baptists first sent missionaries into the country in 1876, but they were withdrawn during the height of the war years (1982) by mutual consent with the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua. Southern Baptist missionaries Jim and Viola Palmer reopened Foreign Mission Board work in the country in 1990. Now serving with them are four other Southern Baptist workers — missionaries Samuel and Margaret Drummond and volunteers Kenneth and Teresa Nicely. Margaret is the daughter of Charles and Indy Whitten of Clinton, prayer coordinators for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (FMB graphic)

## 414 Oklahomans form state Fellowship chapter

**NORMAN, Okla. (ABP)** — A state chapter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed Feb. 29 in Oklahoma, considered one of the most conservative Southern Baptist states in the country.

The action took place after the second annual Oklahoma Baptist Heritage Conference, held at First Church, Norman, Okla. A total of 414 persons registered for the conference from 48 churches in 28 towns.

About 150 persons stayed after the conference to form the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma. They elected a coordinating council composed entirely of laypeople.

Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said fundamental-conservatives and moderate-conservatives differ over their interpretation of Scripture but not over the inspiration or authority of the Bible.

"We want to be biblical, especially in our view of the Bible," he explained. "That means that we dare not claim less for the Bible than it claims for itself. But it also means that we cannot claim more for the Bible than it claims for itself."

"The Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching," he continued. "Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible."

He also said there are differences in approach to education, missions, the role of the pastor, women, and the church itself. He said fundamental-conservatives are more concerned with power and control, while moderate-conservatives allow for differences of opinion.

"Were our fundamentalist brothers able to compromise, we could come together on common ground," Sherman said. But to them, he added, "compromise is a sin."

Sherman said the Fellowship is an alternative to continued political strife in the SBC. "Twelve to 13 years is too long to engage in political activity," he said. "The CBF was formed so we might have a voice in the presentation of the gospel."

Grady Cothen, former president of the Sunday School Board, said the diverse traditions that combined to form the Southern Baptist Convention coexisted in the past because Southern Baptists looked beyond their differences to concentrate on world missions.

"For 140 years all diversity existed side by side, usually without conflict," said Cothen, a former Oklahoma pastor and former president of Oklahoma Baptist University. "From 1839-1979, diversity reigned."

That came to an end in 1979, he said, when Houston judge Paul Pressler and Dallas educator Paige Patterson announced their plan "to rid the denomination of liberals. Out of that experience, diversity became heresy."

Cothen said both he and another former Sunday School Board president, James Sullivan, are no longer allowed to speak at the board's conference center in Glorieta, N.M., because their views are not tolerated by current leaders. Cothen recalled a conversation in which Sullivan told him, "Grady, I built Glorieta and I can't even speak there anymore."

(See **FELLOWSHIP** on page 9)

## European Baptist leaders say Fellowship's help is welcome

By Greg Warner

**OESTRICH-WINKEL, Germany (ABP)** — Baptists in Europe would welcome the help of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in doing mission work, according to three Baptist leaders on the continent.

The European leaders, who met with a 50-member fact-finding delegation from the Fellowship Feb. 17 near Frankfurt, Germany, said the Fellowship's missions philosophy is more in keeping with their traditional partnership with Southern Baptists than the course currently charted by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

"You have the understanding of mission partnership that the Foreign Mission Board had for so many years," Hans Guderian, secretary of home missions for the Baptist Union of Germany, told the Fellowship group.

Southern Baptist mission work in Europe has been in turmoil since October, when FMB trustees defunded the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland — European Baptists' only international seminary — in a dispute over the school's theological direction. In January the FMB's top two administrators for Europe quit in protest, saying trustees were trying to impose their view of theological orthodoxy on European Baptists.

The controversy has caused "a great unrest and instability" among FMB missionaries in Europe, said John Merritt, general secretary of the European Baptist Convention, the association of English-speaking churches on the continent. As a result the Fellowship's promise to help Baptist missionaries in Europe is "very important," said Merritt, himself an FMB missionary.

Walter and Guderian, both German Baptists, agreed the dispute over SBC missions in Europe is taking a toll on FMB missionaries there. "The missionaries in Europe are just torn up in pieces because they don't know the real future," said Walter.

And both leaders said many of the FMB's 400 missionaries in Europe will not remain at their posts if future changes are made in the agency's

strategy and personnel.

Walter estimated "98%" of the FMB's European mission force disagrees with the new direction set by FMB trustees. "They are in line with you," he told the Fellowship group. But most missionaries are "helpless" to do anything about it, he said, and morale is quite low.

"They are hoping you will send some help," said Walter.

One of those missionaries, Rick Dill of Germany, told the group that charges by FMB trustee Ron Wilson that missionaries in Europe are liberal and neo-orthodox have left every missionary suspect. "How long will it be before we're called to (FMB headquarters in) Richmond on furlough to answer to somebody?" he asked.

Merritt said the traditions of the European Baptist Convention's 58 English-speaking congregations "come in very sharp contrast with the stated objectives of some trustees of the Foreign Mission Board."

The English-speaking churches, many of which were started by and for American military families overseas, historically have worked closely with the FMB, Merritt said, noting FMB missionaries often serve as church staff members and the churches donate to Southern Baptist causes. "We have formed our character in great part out of the character of the Foreign Mission Board," he said.

"Now we are wondering whether or not we will be able to continue... if the Foreign Mission Board appoints (missionaries) only of one persuasion," he said.

Merritt said the shift at the FMB has been "orchestrated by the same group" that caused the decade-long controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. "It has come to Europe and we didn't want that," he said.

Merritt said recent actions and statements from FMB trustees indicate the Foreign Mission Board now intends to function less in partnership with European Baptists and more like a "parachurch organization."

"Historically the Foreign Mission Board has helped churches withstand

the parachurch influence (in Europe)," Merritt said. "I'm very much afraid the Foreign Mission Board is becoming a super-parachurch group itself by going about foreign missions itself instead of working through the European Baptist unions."

Steve Hardy, chairman of the FMB trustee committee that oversees missions work in Europe, offered a different view of the dispute when contacted by Associated Baptist Press.

"I do not consider that the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board are moving us in a radically new direction in terms of our mission work in Europe," said Hardy, a North Carolina pastor. "The primary emphasis of the Foreign Mission Board is evangelism that results in churches. If that's a new direction, then I wonder what the old one was."

The dispute over Europe concerns the Ruschlikon seminary only, Hardy said. Trustees have indicated they want to continue their partnership with the EBF and have assured missionaries that the FMB will continue to function on the same philosophical basis as in the past, he added.

Hardy would not speculate on suggestions that most missionaries in Europe — perhaps as many as 98% — are in sympathy with the Fellowship. "I have heard from more than 2% who would not take that approach," he said.

"Among some missionaries the morale is low," he added. "Among others there is a great desire to get on with the work."

The FMB will not interfere with the Fellowship's mission efforts, he said, "but we would insist that the Fellowship do the same."

"The Foreign Mission Board is the foreign mission program of the Southern Baptist Convention, and I think that's all that's needed," he said. If the Fellowship wants to start a mission program, he said, "they ought to do it outside the convention and quit pretending."

Warner is director of Associated Baptist Press.

## Two FMB trustees get credit for protest vote by Belgian church

By Thomas Mullen

**BRUSSELS, Belgium (ABP)** — A Belgian Baptist congregation says two trustees of the Foreign Mission Board encouraged the church to cut its support of a European Baptist group in protest against funding for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The trustees named are William Hancock, the board's chairman, and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and an influential trustee leader. Hancock strongly denied he exerted any influence, and Patterson was unavailable for comment.

But European Baptist leaders say privately the dispute is the first indication that the decade-long Southern Baptist controversy has infiltrated Baptist churches in Europe.

The dispute centers on the International Baptist Church of Brussels, Belgium, which voted Jan. 26 to slash its contribution to the European Baptist

Convention, the association of 58 English-speaking congregations on the continent.

Critics on both continents say FMB trustees are using the action by the church in Belgium to gain support for their controversial defunding of the Swiss seminary.

"We've spoken with Paige Patterson and Bill Hancock, chairman of the Foreign Mission Board," Nick Hine, chairman of the church's deacons, told church members before the vote.

"We do have the wholehearted support in this motion from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board," Hine said. "They are supporting what we're proposing."

Although church members were asked to keep the results of the meeting quiet, a transcript was made from a tape of the meeting by a church member who attended. The Richmond News Leader and Associated Baptist Press obtained copies of the transcript and verified

its contents with a European Baptist leader familiar with the situation.

"A lot's at stake here," said the leader, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Hancock, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., said he had nothing to do with the church's decision.

"I don't even know Nick Hine," he said. "I didn't encourage them (church members). I knew they were considering that, but I didn't encourage them."

Hancock charged that accounts of his alleged interference in the Belgian church sprang from members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and "disgruntled staff people" of the Foreign Mission Board.

"I'm fed up with this," said Hancock.

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# Administration, lawmakers propose tax incentives for charitable gifts

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Some members of Congress and the Bush administration want to make it more attractive for Americans to donate gifts of appreciated property to charitable institutions.

They have proposed to do that by striking a 1986 tax provision that subjected donors of appreciated property to the alternative minimum tax.

Appreciated property includes real estate, stocks, and tangible items such as art and collectibles whose value rose after being acquired.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 subjected the appreciated portion of charitable gifts to the alternative minimum tax, a change that precipitated a decline in large gifts to universities, hospitals, museums, and other charitable organizations.

In a Feb. 10 hearing, representatives of educational, arts, and other charitable organizations asked the House Ways and Means Committee to make the exemption permanent and expand it to include all gifts of appreciated property.

Legislation to provide a permanent exclusion for all types of appreciated property has been sponsored by a bipartisan group of senators and representatives. Additionally, President George Bush's 1993 budget proposal — one version of which was approved Feb. 12 by the Ways and Means Committee — also would exempt donations of appreciated property from the minimum tax.

Houston businessman John Baugh, a member of the Baylor University board of regents, said the Texas Baptist institution is among many experiencing a decline in gifts because of the 1986 tax law. Baugh said he is aware of millions of dollars in gifts Baylor would receive if donors were able to make the contributions without being subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Baugh said the tax on appreciated property gifts produces minimal amounts of revenue. Potential donors, he said, can simply keep assets rather than donating them when the donation subjects them to the alternative minimum tax.

"I believe the government would come out the winner, as well as educational institutions and other beneficiaries of charitable gifts."

Baugh said the release of the gifts to institutions such as Baylor would lead to construction projects that would benefit the nation's economy. Such job creation, he said, could offset the minimal losses to the treasury.

Congressional taxwriters are just beginning the process of drafting a tax bill they hope to have on the president's desk by the March 20 deadline Bush set in his State of the Union address.

It is too early to say for certain whether the final tax package will exempt gifts of appreciated property from the alternative minimum tax. It is also unclear whether Congress will

follow the administration's request to offset any revenue loss by imposing reporting requirements on charitable organizations, including churches.

The administration proposal estimated that by having charitable groups report to the Internal Revenue Service annual contributions from donors over \$500, the treasury could gain about \$100 million annually, more than enough to offset the estimated loss from the appreciated gifts exemption.

"The appreciated property issue and the reporting requirement for churches are unrelated," said Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee. "The administration married them for political purposes. It's simply unfair to require churches to pay such an exorbitant price for tax reform that benefits mainly other non-profits, like colleges, museums, and art galleries."

Walker noted that churches already are exempted from the annual reports required of other charitable organizations.

In an effort to resolve the reporting issue, representatives of religious groups met recently with administration officials.

"We had a constructive meeting with officials of the Treasury Department and IRS," said BJC General Counsel Oliver Thomas. "I am hopeful that the administration will alter its proposal, but at this point we have no assurances."



## White attends alumni meeting

Carl M. White (left), pastor of Clarksdale Church, North Delta Association, was welcomed recently to the annual meeting of the Alumni Advisory Council at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., by national Alumni Association President Emmanuel L. McCall. White is Southern Seminary's 1991-93 Mississippi alumni president.

## Spanish Baptists issue invitation:

## 'Come over and help us!'

MADRID, SPAIN — The Baptist churches of Madrid have issued an invitation to fellow Baptists from around the world to "come over and help us." They have sent their "Macedonian call" because they desperately need the help of many others in worship and witness during this special year in Spain.

For several years Spanish Baptists have been preparing evangelistic activities. "The Good News of the gospel will be proclaimed in Madrid, Europe's 'Cultural Capital 1992' and elsewhere," stated Roberto Crider, evangelism coordinator for the Central Spain Baptist Association.

Crider's invitation to help Spanish Baptists during their campaign is understandable. At least four major world-class events will take place in as many cities as Spain during 1992.

"While Baptist people are in Spain for the '92 Olympics in Barcelona, the world's fair 'EXPO '92' in Seville, 'Valencia '92 European Capital of Music,' and/or 'Madrid '92 Cultural Capital of Europe,' join with your fellow Baptists in Madrid in witness and worship. Although the churches cannot provide lodging, they welcome your help in reaching the people of Spain for Jesus."

Crider said that every month there will be activities in local churches. There will also be city-wide meetings in the spring, summer and fall in 1992.

The following addresses and telephone numbers will be helpful if you plan to travel to Spain in 1992.

**Contact: HOME IN MADRID**  
Roberto Crider, pastor  
C/Embarcaciones, 17 3° B  
28760 Madrid  
Phones: (91) 803 1622  
and (91) 653 8859 Office

Michael Hester, pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
C/Hernandez de Tejada, 4  
28027 Madrid  
Phone: (91) 302 3017

Jose Borrás Cervero, pastor

Fernando Rosello Diaz, pastor  
Phone: (91) 269 1556

**Contact: HOME IN BARCELONA**  
Frederick Dallas, pastor (93) 889 3170  
Marquesa de Caldes Montbui, 46  
(93) 235 1484  
08032 Barcelona

**Contact: HOME IN VALENCIA**  
Jorge Juan Pastor, pastor (96) 578 3610

**Contact: HOME IN SEVILLE**  
Reuben Gomez Pons, pastor (95) 452 9353

# Philadelphians begin collection drive for shipment to Romanian orphanage

By Shannon T. Simpson

In its Jan. 30 issue, the Baptist Record published an article about Cornel Petrassevich, retired doctor in Philadelphia, who had recently returned from his native Romania.

As a result of the hunger and misery he saw there, Petrassevich gave an appeal to Baptist Record readers to aid the people in Romania. In particular, he requested aid for an orphanage in the town of Lugoj where his sister, Dr. Lucy Platon, is a volunteer.

One group in Philadelphia has taken



Philadelphia High School's Beta Club project chairpersons, Hope Wood, left, and Carolyn Yates, fold coats earmarked for the Casa de Copii Prescolari (orphanage) in Lugoj, Romania. The club has undertaken the collection of goods and funds for the orphanage as its ongoing service project.

Petrassevich's plea to heart. The 55-member Philadelphia High School Beta Club has organized collection drives to ship needed goods to the children in the Lugoj orphanage.

So far the club, under the sponsorship of Wanda Waddell and Joann Rouse, has collected eight boxes of up to 4' x 3' for shipment, and about \$100 in cash. They have amassed vitamins, high protein foods, blankets, bedding, and some clothing.

The price of shipping by mail, however, is the major block to actually delivering the goods. Each box costs about \$94 to send via surface mail, and Waddell said she hopes to be able to transport the fruits of the Beta Club's efforts by another means.

She first contacted the Mississippi Air National Guard in hopes of airlifting the packages. She found that she would need Congressman Sonny Montgomery's sanction for that large an endeavor. At press time, Montgomery's office was still awaiting word on how to orchestrate the transport of the goods to as near Bucharest as possible, then on to Lugoj with little difficulty.

From Washington, Montgomery's aide Bo Mask, in a phone interview with the Baptist Record, reported that there were no planes available to travel to Bucharest from the Jackson or Meridian air fields. He said the Air Guard would be the ideal means of transport because it would allow an escort to accompany the shipments directly to Bucharest and perhaps on to its final destination in Lugoj, making sure the supplies got into the hands and mouths of those who needed them. But the aid of the Air Guard is not possible at this time.

As an alternative, Mask offered the name of a Methodist minister in Meridian who may be able to help provide transportation for the goods. The United Methodist Churches, he said, own planes and can move the shipments, but have relied on Southern Baptists to distribute gifts within Romania because there are no Methodist churches there. Mask was attempting to contact the Meridian minister in hopes of organizing an effort to make the shipment.

In the meantime, Waddell, member of First Church, Philadelphia, says she will continue the drive for food and funds tagged for relief in the Lugoj orphanage. "We're going to ship this stuff, even if nothing else comes through. If we have to hold each box and raise the money to ship them one at a time, we'll do it. We have adopted this as an ongoing project. We're not going to quit now."

Waddell says there has been a "tremendous" response from the community. At the beginning of the drive, letters were sent to each area civic organization and many local churches, many of whom helped by contributing in some way.

At the February collection site at the local Walmart store, "Dr. Petrassevich even brought cookies to the students and took them out for pizza afterwards. It's been great," said Waddell.

The Beta Club is still accepting donations, and will continue to do so. Powdered milk and children's clothing sizes 3-7 are the greatest needs at present. To contribute, contact Wanda Waddell or the Beta Club at the Philadelphia High School, 248 Byrd Ave., Philadelphia, Miss., 39350, (601) 656-2672.

## Historical Commission sponsors SBC history writing contest

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995, the Historical Commission, SBC, is sponsoring a "Baptist History Writing Contest." All Southern Baptist youths and adults are invited to participate.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 1994. First-place winners in each category will be awarded \$200. Categories are as follows:

**Category A** — Books dealing with the history of Southern Baptist institutions, persons, issues, events, etc.

**Category B** — Histories of local churches and associations.

**Category C (1)** — Unpublished manuscripts by students and lay historians on the topic "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995."

**Category C (2)** — Unpublished manuscripts by professional historians on same topics as C(1).

For more information about the contest (including an entry form), write the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630.



# Brotherhood coordinates Russian distribution

By Mike Day

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — An emergency food distribution project initiated by the Baptist World Alliance and coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission will begin March 28 in Moscow, according to James D. Williams, president of the Memphis-based agency.

Brotherhood Commission officials were in Moscow last week to confirm logistical details for the project. Called Project Brotherhood, the effort will focus initially on the delivery and distribution of 570 tons of USDA surplus food now on the way to Moscow. The food was secured on behalf of BWA through a grant to Brothers Brother, Inc., a nonprofit relief organization in Washington. It is estimated about 40,000 families will benefit from the expected delivery.

Coordination of Project Brotherhood will require the placement of teams of volunteers in Moscow for the next four to six months. The teams will work in cooperation with the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Commonwealth of Independent States and assist Russian Baptists in repackaging the food shipment, monitoring its distribution and maintaining accurate records.

"We sense the direct leadership of God in responding immediately to this urgent request from the Baptist World Alliance," Williams said.

"It is our intention to assume leadership for this project on behalf of the Baptist bodies of North America through the BWA World Aid Committee and in partnership with

our own SBC agency family, the Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and the Home Mission Board. All Southern Baptists will be asked to respond generously to this unique opportunity for ministry in the name of Christ.

A second Brotherhood Commission logistics team will arrive in the CIS in mid-March, Williams said. The team will assess food and medical needs in eastern Russia and some southern republics in the former Soviet Union. Plans for future involvement will be based upon this assessment.

"We need Southern Baptists to begin to pray now about their involvement in this effort," Williams said. "We will need volunteers who will commit themselves to spend one to two weeks in Moscow. We also will need Southern Baptists to support any expanded involvement with financial resources for additional food, medical supplies and project expenses such as shipping and fuel costs."

Southern Baptists who wish to volunteer to participate should apply through their state Brotherhood departments, Williams said.

People who want to financially support the project may send contributions to Project Brotherhood, Brotherhood Commission, SBC, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, or to Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, VA 22101. All contributions should be clearly designated "For Project Brotherhood."

Day writes for Brotherhood Commission.

## Ripley native, Branyan, dies

Ripley, Miss. native Col. William H. Branyan Jr., 76, died Feb. 25 in Memphis after a long illness. He was a graduate of Mississippi College, and a 1941 graduate of Southern Seminary. Branyan served as pastor in Mississippi churches, and as chaplain

with the U.S. Army. He also served Union Baptist Church, Memphis, as interim pastor, minister of senior adults, pastor, and site manager for the Union Avenue Baptist Towers.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons, and two sisters.

## The listening heart

By Margaret Rogers

TV personality Willard Scott was asked to give his favorite anonymous quote. His answer was: "His thoughts were slow, his words were few and never formed to glisten, but he was a joy to all his friends — you should have heard him listen."



Rogers

Isaiah 49:1a: "Listen unto me and harken, ye people, from far." Matthew 7:24: "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock." These are just other ways of saying, "Listen to me."

Over and over the Old Testament prophets called on Israel to listen to God's word and obey him. When Jesus began his ministry on earth he, too, called on the Jews to listen to his words and accept him as divine.

Prayer is not one-way communication. Jesus not only spoke to the heavenly Father but he also listened. How much more should we be attuned to the still, small voice and listen in reflection and meditation? It is told of John Burroughs, the naturalist, that he could walk along a busy, noisy street and hear a cricket in the hedge because he was listening to nature.

Someone has said that we can listen someone into existence. There are many aspects of listening to the feelings and emotions often hidden behind the spoken word. We need to cultivate listening to languages of the heart.

Listen to laughter. Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Happiness, mirth, and laughter improve the quality of life and hasten the healing process, according to scientific studies. To listen to and join with those who rejoice and laugh will eliminate stress, which has been called the most serious health problem of our time.

Listen to the sorrowing heart. Really listening to the sorrowing heart enhances our compassion and helps heal the one who sorrows. A teacher tells of a young member of her class who came to see her. As she entered the room she cried and sobbed out, "My mother has died and I've come over for you to cry with me." A loving, listening heart that day lifted the spirits of the grieving child and warmed the heart of the listener.

Prayer is active listening to God. A loving, compassionate heart can actively listen to others.

Rogers lives in Collins, and is Sunday School teacher at Salem Church, Collins.

## Letters to the editor

### Wonders what the Lord thinks

Editor:

Why are Southern Baptists acting the way we have been? Is it really necessary to destroy the Cooperative Program, home and foreign missions, and return to the "parade method" of having every cause under the sun to come to our individual churches and use whatever means they feel are "ethical" to acquire contributions from our individual congregations? Brothers, sisters, have you ever gone on a mission trip? Do you remember the faces and the people and the churches? Are you willing to sacrifice over 3,800 missionaries in more than 100 countries, and home missions because you don't like the hearsay you have heard concerning a seminary which (1) does not belong in any way to the SBC, and (2) had treacherously subverted the Cooperative Program and the Foreign Mission Board by soliciting funds directly from Southern Baptists in violation of their agreement?

As one who has been on the receiving end of Cooperative Program money (graduated New Orleans Seminary, class of 1991) I have many friends in many countries who are missionaries. I think of them every time I read of actions which are detrimental to the Cooperative Program and missions. I wonder how much more difficult it will be for them this year and in the years ahead when churches and state conventions rob them to support a seminary that doesn't belong to Baptists in the U.S. at all. I wonder how much easier we could have made it for them had we not reacted so hastily before all the facts were in from the FMB chairman of trustees. Finally, I wonder what the Lord thinks of our actions.

Bill Ferrand  
West

### Against Rep. Espy

Editor:

I was shocked to see in the Feb. 20 issue of the Baptist Record Rep. Mike Espy listed as one of the program personalities for the "Reaching People Growth Conference," First Church, Greenville, Feb. 24-25. If FBC, Greenville sponsored the conference that is their business but if it was sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board I resent very much Rep. Espy's appearance on the program to address the subject of "meeting human needs" or any other subject primarily for the following reasons:

1. In 1991 Mr. Espy was among the House members who were discovered to have given bad checks at the House bank. He was the only Mississippi congressman to have been found guilty.

2. In July 1991 Mr. Espy voted for the passage of HR 2507, a measure authorizing programs of the National Institutes of Health. The bill contained a provision overturning the ban imposed by President Reagan in 1988 on using aborted fetal tissues in federally funded research projects.

3. In October, 1991 Mr. Espy voted against recommitting Fiscal 1992 Interior Appropriations Bill (HR 2686) with instructions to the conferees to accept Sen. Jesse Helms' language forbidding National Endowment for the Arts funds to be used "to promote, disseminate or produce materials that depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

I could mention other examples but I will let these suffice. Mr. Espy is my congressman and that is why I am aware of his voting record.

Louise Shannon  
Yazoo City

Editor's Note: Rep. Espy did not appear on the program.

### Sickened by SBC controversy

Editor:

I am a Christian and member of a Southern Baptist church. This should give me authority to say a few words.

The continued war in the Southern Baptist Convention among the "higher" ups makes me sick on my stomach. Most of these are high paid officials, over the \$100,000 per year mark.

My question is, do they ever win any lost souls for the Lord, or would a lost soul even listen to them?

My pastor said read the Record and pray and that's what I am doing.

May the good Lord help us all through this political ordeal.

F. M. Jones  
Leland

Editor's note: Yes, sir. As a Baptist you have a right to be heard. Very few "higher" ups make \$100,000 per year. They do win lost people to the Lord and most of them had excellent baptism records when they were in the pastorate. Your pastor gave you good advice and I do need your prayers.

### Can church maintain conscience?

Editor:

Concerning Pullen Memorial Church's (N.C.) vote to bless a homosexual union, my question is: How can the church maintain a conscience with any sense of integrity if it allows this to happen? How can a pastor dignify his calling by leading a church in this direction?

It is sad when we see the gross sin of homosexuality so rampant, but for a church to offer its blessings to such a relationship is as ungodly as the sin itself.

The Bible speaks out vividly against this sin in Genesis 19 and Romans 1, only to mention a few.

With all the controversy we have had in our denomination over the last 12 years over moderates and conservatives, if this is a trend of the moderates, I vote for the conservatives, yea, even the fundamentalists.

M. C. Johnson  
North Delta Baptist Association

Editor's Note: Be assured very few moderate, conservative, or fundamentalist churches approve of homosexuality.

### Observe Day of Prayer May 7

Editor:

On Thursday, May 7, America will observe the annual National Day of Prayer. Concerned individuals are urged to participate in Meet at City Hall on that day.

Concerned Americans are asked to gather at their respective local City Hall on the National Day of Prayer and pray for a moral rebirth for America from 12:20 p.m. to 12:40 p.m. on that day.

II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Meet at City Hall is a very simple concept. It involves people meeting at their local City Hall and praying for twenty minutes for the moral rebirth of America. It is open to anyone and everyone who wishes to participate.

Meet at City Hall is an event in which every person who believes in God and the power of prayer can participate.

Robert Polson  
Laurel

## Gregory asks Houston's Young to be available

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — Houston pastor H. Edwin Young is considering a request from Joel Gregory that Young permit himself to be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

"I am just trying to seek the mind and will of God; that is all I am doing," said Young, who said he has no timetable for giving Gregory an answer.

Gregory, pastor of First Church of Dallas, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Feb. 24, he had approached Young, pastor of Second Church of Houston, to invite him to be a presidential nominee.

Gregory said the decision to nominate Young was his alone but added he and "some of the fellows have talked together" about it in informal conversation over "a period of some months."

In recent years, the conservative element of the SBC has come forward with one nominee and has successfully elected the president of the convention since 1979.

Asked about being identified as the "fundamentalist" nominee, Young said he would fight the term and believes "all labels we put on Baptists are pejorative. I don't identify with any of them. I am a Southern Baptist, theologically a thorough-going con-

servative who believes in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. I am not for theological pluralism. I am a Southern Baptist. I believe in the Cooperative Program, and I won't change."

"It is time we move on" beyond the politics of the last dozen years, he said. "If we spend any more time with all our labeling and divisiveness, we are making a serious mistake."

His agenda, whether it be as pastor of Second Church or as president of the SBC, should he permit his nomination, he said, "is strictly two things — missions and evangelism around this world."

Druin is associate editor, BAPTIST STANDARD, Texas.



# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Bivocational pastor builds cabinets as special ministry

When Tony Mullins is handling the tools, building cabinets is a fine art.

For this bivocational pastor in Franklin County, cabinet building has become a ministry. Tony, pastor of Concord Church for a year, surrendered to the ministry on Mother's Day, 1990, and was ordained on Dec. 31, 1990. "Since the Lord called me," he said, "I've preached every Sunday but one, and I needed the rest of that day." Before Concord called him, he was interim pastor of Bogue Chitto Church, Lincoln County.

Though Concord has not yet used his cabinet building expertise, other churches in the county have. Mt. Zion's fellowship hall includes a kitchen with cabinets beautifully crafted. Their handmade decorative touch are the signature of Tony Mullins.

Lucien Church's cabinets were also built as a volunteer service by the same sure hand, as well as the cabinets in the pastory at New Hope, the Mullinses "home church."

In neighboring Lincoln County, he had scheduled one church for such a future building project.

In another state, he has worked on two building teams — for Amanda Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio, and Trotwood Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio. For the latter, he did much of the finish work and concrete work for an education addition.

On weekdays, Tony supervises the

repair of railway cars at the trainyard in Bude.

He and his wife, Paulette, and daughters, Maranda, 11, and Misty, 8, live at Bude, which is 17 miles from Concord Church, where Misty sings in the choir and Maranda is pianist for Sunday School and midweek prayer service and also sometimes sings specials.

The large woodworking shop he built behind his house contains his cabinet making tools and furnishes a place where he can build and trim the cabinets before he delivers and installs them.

His own house he didn't neglect. There he built cabinets for kitchen, baths, hall, and utility room, and cabinets and bookshelves for his study.

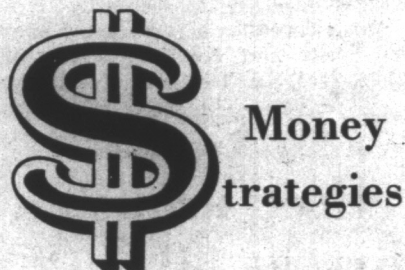
Tony is one of 12 children of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Mullins. His mother lives in a mobile home next door to Tony and Paulette. His dad, who in early years was a sharecropper, worked 33 years as custodian of Franklin High School in Meadville. Not long before his death, the football field at the school was named in his honor.

During the past year, attendance at Concord has increased, and a pavilion was built. "There are lots of tithers at Concord," Tony said. "We have no financial problems. We have many projects and dreams for the future."

No doubt those dreams will come true, for whatever he does, he does with the skill of a craftsman.



Gulf Coast Association employees are pictured, left to right: Bobby Perry, director of missions; Jim Dalrymple, associate director; Gary Daymond, secretary; and Linda Kittrell, bookkeeper.



By Charles Givens

The telephone has become the greatest source of interruption in almost everyone's life. For some reason, you have come to believe when the telephone rings everything else has to be put on hold. In reality, answering a telephone is like someone who follows you around and yells "freeze" 20 times a day — expecting you to stop in your tracks for three to 10 minutes no matter what you were doing.

Check the current level of control that the telephone has over your mind and life. For an entire Saturday, allow the phone to ring, but don't allow anyone to pick it up. No matter how long and how many times it rings, let it sound off and note what happens in your mind. If the phone is in control of your life you will go through thoughts such as, "Could this be an emergency? Is it important? Does this phone call mean money to me?"

Success Response: For maximum effectiveness let an answering machine screen and record your calls. Review the messages and determine which calls you will respond to.

Success Response: Begin your message with, "No one is available to answer the phone." "No one is at home," which is how most message begins, may not be the truth and should not be part of the message. Do not include as part of the message that, "Someone will call you back." Since you decide which calls require a response, you are maintaining control of your integrity.

There are times when you will absolutely want to answer certain types of phone calls. Maybe the plumber is going to call you to schedule a time to fix the pipes that are flooding your house. That's a call you don't want to miss.

Success Response: Make all call backs at the same time. One of the secrets of the effective use of the telephone is to set aside a period of 15 to 30 minutes and place all your calls at the same time.

Keep phone use to just a couple of specific periods instead of scattered throughout the day. You will find that you will free up an amazing amount of time and mental energy.

The Medick Agency, Inc., Orlando, Fla.

## World missions is a daily agenda on the Coast

By Fred Womack

The Gulf Coast Baptist Association, under Bobby Perry, director of missions, has come to view world missions as a daily agenda.

Feb. 15-19, Perry coordinated a World Missions Conference, which to me was a remarkable event.

Thirty-seven missionaries from eight foreign countries and 12 states conducted a world missions fair; then they dispersed into 37 churches and spoke to six different congregations for the week. Each church heard at least five missionaries from both foreign and home mission fields.

The Gulf Coast churches were enlightened, inspired, and edified. Several lay people responded to the call of missions and are making inquiries with both the Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

At this stage in Southern Baptist history, I can think of nothing that will bring focus, unity, and strength to "who we are" and "what we are about" more than getting together from all over the world and sharing what God is doing.

Speaking of world missions, the newly proposed Seamen's Center, an interdenominational mission project catalyzed primarily by Perry's vision and efforts, is to be built in the heart of the port of Gulfport. There, upwards of 227 large ship dock annually and unload their cargoes on to 10,000 trucks that distribute imported goods throughout North America. The proposed construction cost of the Seamen's Center is \$230,000. It is estimated that more than 20,000 seamen, truckers, and port-related employees will be exposed to a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ every year by the presence of the facility.

## Missionaries hopeful despite Burundi unrest

By Craig Bird

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP) — Despite recent rebel attacks on the Burundian capital of Bujumbura, Southern Baptist missionaries in the central African country say they are more optimistic than ever about their work.

President Pierre Buyoya is forging ahead with plans to introduce multi-party democracy in the small African nation situated on the northeast side of Lake Tanganyika. Missionaries believe the democratization process will enhance their current positive situation.

Southern Baptists missionaries, who first entered Burundi in 1978, actually left in 1986 because of government restrictions. They re-entered the country in late 1988. They work alongside missionaries from the Danish Baptist Union, which started the work in 1928.

Jeff Polglase of Arizona, chairman of the Baptist mission of Burundi, said the Baptist mission has helped eight churches "put up roofs" in the past year, many of them for new congregations. "That's good growth when you consider it took 63 years to start the first 72 Baptist churches in this country," he explained. "Burundian pastors are taking the initiative in organizing churches."

"By the end of April our mission will increase from two to five families," he said. "We plan to open a new area in southern Burundi with an agricultural center operated by Dennis and Margaret McCall, of Mississippi and Georgia, respectively. Bird writes for FMB.

and a qualified minister of the gospel.

Further, Perry oversees the work of Spanish, Korean, Filipino, and Vietnamese language missions. He also organizes mission trips to Argentina, the Caribbean Islands, and to pioneer areas of Southern Baptists work in northern states. In my mind, he lives and breathes world missions.

Perry is a man of God doing an outstanding job in an association that stretches 60 miles along the coast and 40 miles inland, where 200,000 people reside.

Working with him is Jim Dalrymple, associate director; Linda Kittrell, bookkeeper; Gary Daymond, secretary; and 66 pastors who compose the Gulf Coast Baptist Association.

Womack is pastor, Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead.

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## Fellowship leaders deliver check, promise to Ruschlikon

By Greg Warner

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship delivered \$240,898 and a promise of continued help to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Feb. 20.

The check, representing gifts to the embattled seminary from churches and individuals in the United States, was presented to Ruschlikon President John David Hopper by Fellowship moderator John Hewett.

Hewett, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., described the gift "as the first installment of what we expect to be an ongoing commitment from your brothers and sisters in the United States."

Although Hewett was not specific about the Fellowship's future relationship with the seminary, he and other Fellowship officials met privately for more than an hour with Hopper and other seminary personnel to discuss the school's needs and the possibility that the Fellowship could support some of the staff members currently

paid by the FMB.

Hopper told the visiting group the defunding decision "has brought the biggest crisis perhaps in history between the Foreign Mission Board and a major segment of Baptist life across the world."

Hopper said the Ruschlikon dispute signals a change in the missions philosophy of the Foreign Mission Board — from a "partnership" with Baptist unions in Europe, many of which are older than the SBC, to an insistence that "the Southern Baptist way of doing things is the only way."

"For us, it's not the money," Hopper said. "The money can be replaced but not the trust on which everything else is built."

That loss of trust was evident in the words of Ruben Richards of South Africa, Ruschlikon's student body president, who thanked the Fellowship on behalf of students.

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press.

## Jackson nurses to give shots in Tashkent

Mike Barnes and Laverne Barnes (no kin), two nurses from Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, are to be part of a medical team from Texas which will inoculate 50,000 persons in two cities of the former Soviet Union, Tashkent and Alma Ata. They will leave on March 13 and return March 29.

Mike is clinical coordinator in the Nursing Services Department at MBMC. Laverne recently retired from MBMC but continues to work there part-time.

Mike served on a team that ministered to Kurdish refugees in Turkey last May. Laverne, a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson,

is also a member of Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Mississippi and has served as camp nurse at Garaywa and Gulfshore.

Mary Holyfield, director of educational services at MBMC and a BNF member, said they will be busy giving measles, mumps, typhoid, tetanus, and polio shots.



## C. C. Carraway, retired pastor, dies

Clyde C. Carraway, 85, a retired Baptist minister, died of cancer Feb. 28 at St. Dominic/Jackson Medical Center.

Services were held Feb. 29 at Calvary Baptist Church in Cleveland.

A native of Hazlehurst, Carraway was a graduate of Mississippi College. He was ordained in 1930 and began work as pastor of Rock Hill Church, Brandon.

Clyde Luther Carraway of Lucedale said that in his father's last months he would preach to people he saw. "He wanted everyone to know about Jesus," Carraway said.

"He was a church starter," the minister's son said. "In towns where there was no church, he would get a few residents together that wanted a church and get one started."

Those churches include Gooden Lake, Louise, Cary and Clarksdale Riverside. He served as interim

pastor at the Chinese Baptist Church in Cleveland. Among his many pastorates were Boyle Church, Calvary Church, Silver City Church, and Straight Bayou Church, Sharkey County.

Lately, he had worked with the Chinese ministry of Parkway Church, Jackson, where he was a member.

Many times he served more than one church at the time.

Carraway also had served as an associational director of missions. He had been a member of the executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and moderator of Bolivar Association.

"He lived his life for others," said Carraway. "He loved and cared for people."

Other survivors include wife, Eva; daughters, Joyce Harrison of Raymond, Margaret Johnson of Canton, and Charlotte Knight of Cleveland; two sisters; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

## Career Assessment Conference set

A Career Assessment Conference will be held at Lake Tiah-O'Khata, April 27-28. Fred McGehee, consultant in the Church Administration Department in Nashville, will be the conference leader.

Career Assessment is an opportunity for the minister to take a serious look at his life purpose and direction. The minister is assisted in discovering his strengths and weaknesses as well as how to develop his God-given skills. Many ministers have experienced renewal in their lives and

have been able to set short and long-term ministry goals as a result of Career Assessment conferences, according to Louis Smith, director of Church-Minister Relations and Annuity, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

This conference is open to staff members serving in ministerial roles in churches. Interested persons should call the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department at the Baptist Building, (601) 968-3800.

## Meet at City Hall: call to prayer project for rebirth

TUPELO, MS — A group of Christian leaders are planning a special prayer project for moral rebirth in America. Meet at City Hall calls for concerned churches and individuals to meet at the local city hall on the National Day of Prayer, May 7, and spend 20 minutes praying for a moral rebirth in America.

"Meet at City Hall is a project for special prayer — a prayer for moral rebirth in America. On that day individuals in hundreds of communities are expected to gather at their city hall to pray for a moral rebirth in America," said Donald E. Wildmon, chairman of the event.

The Meet at City Hall prayer project encourages individuals to gather at their local city hall on May 7 and pray for a moral rebirth for America from 12:20 p.m. to 12:40 p.m. that day.

Honorary co-chairmen for Meet at

City Hall include William Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ, Int.; G. Raymond Carlson, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God; F. Brandt Gustavson, executive director of National Religious Broadcasters; Richard C. Halverson, chaplain of the U.S. Senate; E. V. Hill, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles; D. James Kennedy, senior minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale; Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Marlin Maddoux, president of USA Radio Network; Congressman Bob McEwen of Ohio; and Billy A. Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

For more information, write or call Meet at City Hall, Post Office Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803 (601) 844-5036.

## Jeff Brantley dies

John F. (Jeff) Brantley, former pastor at Forest Church, Forest, died Feb. 20, 1992 in Georgiana, Ala. Brantley was a former professional baseball player and served as umpire in many local games.

Brantley previously pastored at Good Year Church, Picayune; First Church, Lumberton; Second Church, Ascagoula; and First Church, Ichnon. He also conducted a radio program from Forest for 17 years. Brantley was president of Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission and the Mississippi Baptist Convention board. He is survived by his wife Ann.

## Lottie Moon goals set

Roxie Church, Roxie, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The goal was set at \$3,500 and the church received \$12,600. Ellis O. Smith is interim pastor of Roxie Church.

1918 — Mississippi was the first state to ratify the eighteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, the prohibition amendment.

## HINSON

From page 3

posed primarily of former professors at Southern Baptist seminaries.

Thomas Graves, president of the Richmond seminary, described Hinson as "a world-renowned scholar who will bring to this young school a wealth of experience, wisdom and most importantly an attentiveness to matters of the spirit."

"I feel very pained about leaving the seminary," Hinson concluded. "A chunk of my heart will stay at Southern."

Warner is editor of Associated Baptist Press and Knox is editor of WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky.

## W. C. Gann, retired minister, dies at 80

Funeral services for W. C. Gann, 80, of 100 West Melody Lane, Corinth, who died suddenly March 3, were held



Gann

March 5 at Glen-dale Baptist Church, Alcorn County. Bob Cossey officiated.

Born in Tishomingo County, Gann was a Baptist minister for 44 years. A graduate of Blue Mountain College, he served as a director of missions in Alcorn, Tishomingo, and Prentiss counties. Also he had served as pastor of at least 12 churches.

Survivors include wife, Vella Lee Gray Gann of Corinth; three daughters, Shirley G. Wilson of Corinth, Jane G. Johnson of Madison, and Joan L. Gann of Memphis, Tenn.; one half sister, Francis Higgason of Booneville; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

## Peace Fellowship will meet, June 29-July 4

The Seventh Gathering of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will meet June 29-July 4, 1992, at Hollins College in Roanoke, Va. A program of speakers, story tellers, and music will be offered in a quest to discover Baptists' peacemaking heritage.

More information can be obtained by writing to Baptist Peace Fellowship, 499 Patterson Street, Memphis, TN 38111 or call 901-324-7675.

## BUSH

From page 3

family or traditional," Richard Land, executive director of the Nashville-based Christian Life Commission, said March 4.

"The president needs to understand he can't ride two teams of horses in opposite directions," Land said.

Land and SBC president Morris Chapman fired off a letter of complaint to Bush after Bush's campaign chairman, Robert Mosbacher, met Feb. 13 with staffers of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a representative of the AIDS Action Council.

This is not the first time the Bush White House has aroused the alarm of Southern Baptist leaders.

Land and other spokesmen in the 15-million-member denomination were similarly dismayed two years ago, when the Bush administration invited gay task force leaders to the White House for the signing of anti-hate crime legislation.

"Evangelical voters don't want Buchanan to win; they want Bush to

# Names in the news

David Thurman, student at Clarke College, and missionary kid from Bangladesh, will represent Clarke this summer in Kazakhstan, a republic of the former Soviet Union. Thurman and four other Mississippi BSU students have been appointed by their respective BSUs for 8-10 week periods of service at pioneer camps and with rural youths and children. Theirs will be one of four teams serving in Kazakhstan this summer, with the goal of evangelism through friendship making.

Elizabeth Jane Robertson Fleck, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. O. B. Robertson of Military Church, Sumrall, died in Westlake, Calif., Feb. 26. Fleck was born in Jackson, Miss., Jan. 1, 1945, and had lived in California since 1976. She was a graduate of Mississippi College. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M. C. McDaniel of Clinton. She is survived by her husband, Richard Fleck of Westlake, son Craig, student at Mississippi College, daughter Beth of Westlake and three step-daughters. She is also survived by four brothers, Wayne, Robert, David, and Jim, and one sister Carol. Burial was in Westlake, Feb. 29.

## Clarke still holds its own

In 1990, Clarke College was cited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in two areas — long range planning and finances. Later that year, Clarke was dropped from SACS membership. As a result, Clarke College filed an injunction against SACS. That motion is still pending.

Since then, the college has received a bequest of \$120,000 from the estate of Ruth Lacy. That money is being used to replace student financial aid.

Also, problems arose with other colleges accepting Clarke College credits. Clarke has now worked out an agreement with 16 colleges in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida for transfer of credit. Presently there are 105 students enrolled at Clarke. About one third of those are ministerial students.

—Used with permission, condensed from NEWTON RECORD, Feb. 27, 1992 issue, Keith Justice, staff writer.

Jim Byrd of Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, has been licensed to the ministry. He is available for supply preaching or interim. Byrd can be contacted at 734-6117 or 833-5956. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor of Gum Grove Church.

Joe Hamilton, professor of physics at Vanderbilt University and recently named "Tennessee Professor of the Year," will be the guest lecturer for the Archie H. Germany Science and Mathematics Forum, March 19-20, at Mississippi College.

Hamilton, a 1954 graduate of Mississippi College, will use as his theme "From Nuclei to Stars."

## Homecomings

Trinity Church, Pearl (Rankin): March 29; 20th anniversary; 11 a.m.; Shalley Vaughn, Florence, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Pearl Quartet, guest singers; Kenneth Goff, pastor.

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# Staff changes

Darren Miley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Miley of Crystal Springs, was ordained to the gospel ministry of First Church, Crystal Springs, on March 1. Miley is a graduate of William Carey College and is enrolled at New Orleans Seminary. He has worked the past three summers at Central Hills Retreat and is presently serving as minister of youth and children at County Line Church, Mendenhall. Joel Haire is pastor at First Church.

Rolling Hills Church, Carriere, has called Joey Tatum of Picayune as minister of music and youth, effective Dec. 15. He received his education at Pearl River Junior College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary.

New Hope Church, Oktibbeha Association, has called Robert (Bob) Brandon as pastor effective March 1. His previous place of service was West Poplarville. A native of Arkansas, he received his education at New Orleans Seminary.

Stanton Church, Natchez, has called Steve Strebeck as minister of music and youth. He was minister of music at Roseland Church, Roseland, La. before moving to Natchez.

Jeffery "Danny" Adams has been called as pastor of Faith Church, DeWitt, Ark. Adams is a 1979 graduate of Florida Baptist College and a native of Pascagoula.

David W. Carlton has been called as pastor of Fairview Church, Indianola. He is a graduate of Louisiana



Carlton

Tech and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Pamela, previously served as church planters with the Home Mission Board. Carlton pastored Victory Church in Davenport, Iowa, before coming to Mississippi.

Phil Mullens resigned as pastor of Gatesville Church, Copiah County, in October. He is now pastor of Easthaven Church in Richland.

Bill Jefferies is the new pastor of Gatesville Church.

## New missionaries' prayer gets 'ringing' response

By Craig Bird

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP) — Prayers aren't always answered by telephone. But Stan and Iva May believe theirs were.

As they completed their first year of language study, the Southern Baptist missionaries from Tennessee and Mississippi began praying for God to provide church leaders and to guide them in starting a church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

The phone rang. It wasn't God speaking personally. Instead it was Ila-Mae Dueck, another Southern Baptist missionary and director of Zimbabwe's Bible Way Correspondence School. A young man named Clever Masuku had just left her office after asking the location of a Baptist church he could attend.

When Stan May contacted Masuku it didn't seem an obvious answer to their prayers. Masuku had just been released from prison after nine years as a political detainee. But during those years he had enrolled in Bible

Way and completed all seven of the correspondence courses offered in his language by the Baptist Mission of Zimbabwe.

"He trusted Christ and began to bring friends and relatives to Stan's office to hear the 'good news,'" Dueck explained. May began preaching each Sunday at Masuku's apartment and on weekdays teaching the young man, by example, how to witness in his neighborhood.

As people responded the apartment soon became overcrowded. The group began to pray for somewhere else to meet — "and the Lord provided someone else's building," according to Dueck. "The people are using their tithes and offerings to rent a Seventh-day Adventist facility."

Just a year after the initial contact with Masuku, Tshabalala Baptist Church has 75 regular attenders. And Clever Masuku has a local Baptist church to attend.

Bird writes for FMB.

## RA racer competition set at Indianapolis speedway

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptist Royal Ambassadors, who run their five-ounce, pine-wood RA Racer cars by the thousands every year at church, associational, and state events across the SBC, will have the "dream track" of a lifetime opened to them on Saturday, June 6.

That's when the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the "greatest spectacle in motorsports," will host "M & M-Race Day." It is sponsored and organized by the Brotherhood leadership of the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and will be the first interstate RA Racer competition.

The event started out as a two-state challenge match, which arose after 11 Missouri Baptist Men from the St. Louis Metro Association built and delivered a regulation RA Racer track to Detroit for the first statewide

RA Racer event in Michigan.

However, with thousands of messengers heading for the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention at Indianapolis' Hoosier Dome the following week, organizers decided to open the field to any member or leader of a Royal Ambassador, High School Baptist Young Men, Acteen, or Girls in Action organization in a Southern Baptist church.

Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each age-level category and to participating unit leaders.

Leaders of participating units must register and pay all registration fees by April 1 to the Brotherhood Department, Missouri Baptist Convention, 400 East High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101. For more information about the event and area accommodations, call (314) 635-7931, ext. 444.

## FELLOWSHIP

From page 4

Such treatment is "unmoral, unethical and un-Baptistic," Cothen said.

"It is heresy in every sense of the word." The people who historically have "paid the bills" and made sacrifices to build the SBC are now excluded, he said.

"You can continue with the status quo, do missions as you have always done and ignore the violations of Baptist polity," he said. "Or you can educate the church. Give them full information. Open free discussions in love."

The newly formed coordinating council elected Dan Hobbs, a layman in the Norman congregation, as moderator.

Thursday, March 12, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Orientation offers help to new ministers of education

NASHVILLE — New ministers of education interested in learning more about ministry resources and services available through the Sunday School Board may benefit from attending one of two orientation sessions planned in 1992 at the board's Church Program Training Center.

According to Will Beal, minister of education consultant, the "Orientation for New Ministers of Education" is designed to inform ministers of education with three years of experience or less how the Sunday School Board and its resources can

assist them in their future ministry. Agenda items include completing a leadership profile instrument; and discussions about staff relations, doing basic Sunday School work, and enlisting and training volunteers.

Orientation dates for 1992 are May 11-14 and Oct. 12-15. The registration fee is \$63. Five meals will be provided free of charge. For more information about lodging, meals, and transportation, contact the Church Program Training Center at (615) 251-2294.

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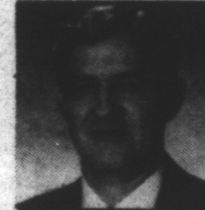
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# Just for the Record



The Mississippi College Concert Singers will be on spring tour March 17-22. This select ensemble will sing concerts in Immanuel Church, Hammond, La.; First Church, Kosciusko; Calvary Church, Tupelo; First Church, Cleveland; First Church, Batesville; and First Church, Yazoo City.

The choir will perform a cappella masterworks by such com-

posers as Handel, Victoria, and Schutz, and 20th century compositions by Durafle, Fissinger, and John Ness Beck, and a variety of church anthems, hymn arrangements, and spirituals. The singers are conducted by James Richland Joiner, professor of music.



Mississippi Baptist Fitness Center has been recognized by the United States Water Fitness Association as having the "Number One" aquatic program in the United States in the "Hospitals and Medical Center Aquatic Facilities" category. Also, for the second consecutive year, Mississippi Baptist Fitness Center has been selected as the top aquatic program in Mississippi and is nationally ranked as number 11 of the top 50 programs in the United States. Pictured, from left, are Lindy Turpin, director of the fitness center; Kent Strum, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's executive director; Dan Gore, MBMC assistant executive director; and Mary Lou Brantley, the fitness center's aquatic coordinator. On March 19 there will be clinic for swimmers at 6:30 and swimming instructors' certification course will be offered on March 21-22.



The Baptist Young Women and Baptist Women of Grandview Church, Pearl, combined talents to present "A Task of the World" as part of their Lottie Moon presentation. Members of the church were treated to desserts from around the world and interesting facts about missions. This year the church exceeded its goal of \$1,800.

Byram Church, Jackson, recently elected deacons. Frank Jackson and Carl Southern were reactivated while Richard Sullivan, John Pepper, and Charles Freeman were ordained. The active deacons are Bob Brown, Ray Buchanan, Albert Luttrell, Frank Jackson, Carl Southern, Richard Sullivan, John Pepper, and Charles Freeman. William G. Patrick, Claude Patrick, and J. R. Singleton were given certificates as honorary deacons for life. James D. Whittington is pastor.

First Annual Spring Bible Conference will be held at Goodyear Church, Picayune, March 22-24. Speakers and times will be G. A. McCoy, retired pastor, Carriere, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Moody Adams, Baker, La., Monday, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Louis Nicolosi, pastor, Purvis Church, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; and Cliff Brown, layman, Hattiesburg, Tuesday, 8 p.m. Music will be by Allen Hill and J. D. Batson. Arlis F. Grice, pastor of Goodyear Church, will speak Sunday at 11 a.m.



"Don't Break The Heart" was the name of the Sunday School high attendance day in February at Houston Road Church in Jones Association. The goal last year was set at 200 and 260 in attendance was achieved. The goal for this year was set at 300 with 343 in attendance. Pictured, from left, are Steve Pouncey, pastor, and Larry Welborn, director of Sunday School.

## Blue Mountain will host regional meet, Christians in Theatre Arts

Plans are underway for the first ever Mid-South Regional Christians In Theatre Arts (CITA) Conference to be held March 21 at Blue Mountain College.

CITA is an international network of individuals and organizations desiring to encourage Christians involved in theatre and related arts. The organization works to provide an atmosphere in which members, whether novice or professional, can work together to better each individual's dramatic and artistic capabilities.

Included on the program are Memphis actress Susan Lynn-Johns, whose one-woman portrayal of the life of 14th century saint Julian has played in churches and theatres throughout the

Mid-South; Scott and Donna Chalmers, also of Memphis, whose theatre credits include both professional work and volunteer church ministry experience; and Gerald Partin, director of the Birmingham-based "Alpha Kappa Players," whose new work "A Crown of Thorns" will be featured at the conference.

CITA president and chairman of the theatre program at Bob Jones University, Dale Savidge, will speak about the CITA's mission and potential opportunities for service within the organization.

For more information, contact Cliff Thompson, conference coordinator, at (601) 685-4771.

## Revival dates

Wade Church, Pascagoula: March 22-27; Paul Smith, Saraland, Ala., evangelist; Jimmy Miller, Wade Church, music; services, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. each evening; J. Wilbur Hall, pastor.

Antioch Church (Jasper): March 13-15; Keith Boggan, pastor, Rose Hill Church (Jasper), evangelist; Gene Laton, music; Fri. and Sat., 7:15 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Carey Bass, pastor.

Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven: March 29-April 3; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with noon meal; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mack Amis, evangelist, and Anthony Poole, music, both of Central Church, Brookhaven; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

Glade Church, Jones: March 15-18; Tommy Anderson, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Pearl, evangelist; Robert Bolling, minister of music, Fellowship Church, Jones, music; dinner on the grounds Sunday with services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rayford Moore, interim pastor.

First Church, Byram: March 15-18; services, Sunday 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Williamson, pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon, evangelist; James Beasley, First Church, Crystal Springs, music.

Trinity Church, Pearl (Rankin): March 15-19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Guy Henderson, editor, Baptist Record, evangelist; Joe McGraw, music director, Grandview Church, Pearl, music; Kenneth Goff, pastor.

First Church, Calhoun City: Mar. 22-25; Jim Bain, evangelist; Ron Lambe, music, Istrouma Church, Baton Rouge, La.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Anthony S. Kay, pastor.

Eastside Church, Pearl: March 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., luncheon at noon and 7 p.m.; Argile Smith, pastor, Trinity Heights, Shreveport, La., evangelist; John Yates, music evangelist; Dennis Dunn, pastor.

Faith Church, Starkville: March 15-18; Spring Bible Conference, with Ron Dunn and Jamall Badry; Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., at 12-1 p.m. (lunch \$2.00) and 7 p.m.

Petal-Harvey Church, Petal: March 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; Ralph Langley, FBC, Huntsville, Ala., guest evangelist; Buddy Casey, Central Church, Warner, Ga., music; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

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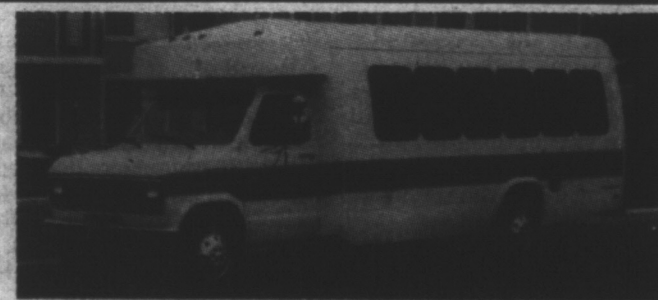
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## LIFE AND WORK

### Evaluating our service



By Lola M. Autry  
Matthew 20:1-4, 8-16

How much do you trust the Lord? Even when your human nature suggests he hasn't treated you fairly, do you still trust him to do what is right? "Of course I do," is probably your first reaction, but on second thought do you still play with the idea that he could have done things differently; that he could have made life easier? After all, you are his child and you have tried to do what he tells you to do. Why can't your earthly reward be more in line with your service to him?

**The laborers hired (vv. 1-4).** Jesus tells of a person who hired workmen at different times during the day; to each he promised the same wage. He compares the kingdom of heaven to this man with his laborers and vineyards. God calls us to labor in his fields. He does not want us standing idle in this world's marketplace.

**The landowner's generosity (vv. 8-9).** To every laborer the landowner gave the same wage: a penny. To those who had worked all day and to those who had worked only from the eleventh hour he gave the same wage.

As children of our heavenly Father we are not all saved at the same age. Some are saved in childhood, some in youth; others in middle years or old age. God does not reward us according to how long we work for him, but for dedicated service to him after we become his.

**The first laborers' complaint (vv. 10-12).** The day's work was ended. The pay was received. Each received the same amount and the grumbling began. Their complaint? Some had worked all day in the heat and they were paid no more than the late-comers. Sounds unfair, doesn't it? But let's look further.

**The owner's response (vv. 13-15).** The good man reminded the complainers of their agreement. He had kept his word, so they had no grounds for dissatisfaction. He refused to break his word to any of them.

What a blessed thought that Jesus never breaks his word to anyone. He promises eternal life to the oldest convert even as he grants it to the youngest. God gives his rewards not because he owes us anything for serving him, but because he is God of grace and God of love.

**The conclusion (v. 16).** Charles H. Spurgeon quotes Calvin as having stated when banished from Geneva, that if he had merely served man, his banishment would have been poor pay for service rendered. But he had served the Lord who always rewards his servants exactly as promised.

Would you have answered as he did? What criteria do you use for determining the value of your service to God? Is prestige your goal? Read Mark 10:43-44. Are you full of pride at your service to him? Read Proverbs 28-25. Do you seek power through your service? Read I Chronicles 29:11. Do you begrudge others the rewards they receive?

Greatness is not measured by our standards. We need to remember that God is sovereign, and his ways are not ours. Read Isaiah 55:8. On what do you base your service to the Lord? Do you serve him humbly and thankfully and in trust? The last phrase of Exodus 22:27—God speaking—reads: "for I AM gracious." Verses 8-9 of our lesson text is a good example of his graciousness. We can trust him in all things.

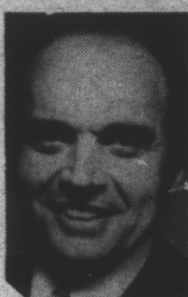
Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County.

*Birds have their nests, rear their young, and make annual flights to other climates. But so far as is known, no bird ever tried to build more nests than its neighbors; no fox ever fretted because he only had one hole in the earth in which to hide; no squirrel ever died in anxiety lest he should not lay up enough nuts for two winters instead of one; and no dog ever lost sleep over the fact that he did not have enough bones buried in the ground for his declining years. So many people put the emphasis on the wrong thing.*

—Religious Telescope

## BIBLE BOOK

### God's offer of salvation



By Charles Nestor  
Hosea 13:4, 9-15; 14:1-8a

The active ministry of Hosea was rapidly coming to a conclusion. His prophecy was quickly coming to pass. He painted a picture of God's imminent judgment upon his people. Hosea uses Ephraim to illustrate the Northern Kingdom.

Ephraim, the largest of the northern tribes, had turned from God to Baal and every generation increased in sin. The ultimate effect was that their glory had turned to shame. Hosea longed for the time when Israel would repent of idolatry and enjoy the blessings of God. His concluding words speak of God's forgiveness to those who repent.

**I. The rejected Lord becomes Israel's destroyer (13:4, 9-11).** God reaffirms that he is the only God Israel is to worship. This truth is illustrated by Israel's experience. A history of their people reveals that there was no other god who demonstrated such power on their behalf. Beginning in verse 9, we see that Israel had ruined herself by turning from God. The picture is one of complete corruption and ruin.

Israel had turned to the worship of Baal and to unfaithful leaders. She clamored for a king like all the other nations had, and God allowed this change. Israel's leaders were ineffective and contributed to her destruction. Any time we replace God's leadership with human leadership we are in trouble. That applies to church leaders as well as political leaders.

**II. Israel's destruction described (13:12-15).** Israel's disobedience to God was moving her closer to the ultimate judgment and destruction. Hosea here uses a vivid illustration. The fetus which will not emerge from the womb is sure to die. Israel refused to accept God's promises; the nation faced a fate no better than death. We must never forget that God holds the power of life and death.

Israel's judgment would witness the departure of God's compassion and patience. Her arrogance and willful disobedience would lead to the death of that nation. That is a high price to pay for enjoying the pleasures of sin. We would do well to affirm the same truth.

**III. A call for repentance (14:1-3).** When the destruction of Israel seemed inevitable, Hosea issued a final call for the people to repent and turn to God. In verses 2-3 he gives them a prayer to pray to God. They were to ask forgiveness of sins and return to the worship of God, rather than worship of idols. This is the same call to repentance which God extends to the world today. His love has not changed.

**IV. The Lord's promise of hope for those who repent (14:4-8).** The power of God to heal broken lives is illustrated in this passage. When Israel repented, God would faithfully restore her people in a loving relationship. He would heal them, as the physician treats a patient back to health. He would renew and refresh their lives, as the dew does for the earth's vegetation. This was God's desire for them all the time. Their disobedience had separated them from the Lord's blessings, but their true repentance could lead to restored blessings.

God has not rescinded his promise to those who repent. The promise for us has been enhanced through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we repent, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Hosea is a marvelous lesson in God's redeeming love. There is a place in our world for some modern-day prophets like Hosea. We need to proclaim the destructive nature of sin, and a call for our world to repent and turn to God. Sin will destroy a life, but God will restore everyone who will repent.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

## UNIFORM

### Minister despite rejection



By Bobby Williamson  
Mark 6:1-13

One of the most difficult circumstances to deal with in life is rejection. Not a one of us has an easy time with being rejected, and our lesson this week has much to say about this matter. What is our response to be to rejection? What risk do we take to minister to others? Do we risk being rejected?

**I.** We all know from experience that many times the hardest people to minister to are those that know us best. In verses 1-2, we find Jesus returning to his own country to teach in the synagogue. How would the Nazarenes react to Jesus? The Bible says they took "offense" at him. They called him "the carpenter" and "son of Mary" as if to say, "Who does he think he is?"

Despite the belittling, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to teach. Not only should this encourage each of us to press on with the gospel, it should certainly encourage us to be faithful in our Sunday School and worship attendance. How would we respond to people's reaction in this manner? Jesus warns us in verses 2-3 against allowing familiarity or prejudice to prevent us from hearing God's true messengers. How many times are we guilty of living with past prejudices in dealing with a Christian brother or sister that is now being used by the Lord?

**II.** In verse 4 Jesus acknowledges that a prophet is not honored in his own country, among his own kin, and in his own house. This should not only be an acknowledgment to us but a warning that we should deepen our respect for God's genuine servants.

We find in verses 5-6 that because of the people's unbelief, Jesus was limited in what he could do in his own country. What limits Jesus in our lives? Many times it is a lack of faith, just as the lack of faith shown by these Nazarenes. Faith is a necessary channel through which Jesus works in our lives.

**III.** The rejection that Jesus suffered did not stop him. He moved on to other villages to teach. Very sadly today many Christians quit at the first sign of rejection. The Christ-like way would be to continue to minister, just as Jesus did in this situation.

**IV.** In these verses we find that Jesus sent out the twelve disciples in pairs and empowered them to preach, cast out demons, and heal. The disciples preached that people should repent, and also ministered to the needy people.

We are all called by Jesus to spread the gospel. We should be motivated to share the good news and to minister to people in need. Many take "shake off the dust" in verse 11 out of context and use it as a proof text to give up too easily. This is not an excuse from persisting in our efforts for Christ.

What is our Christian response to rejection? Our lesson this week clearly admonishes us to continue to minister. Let us resolve this week to minister to those in need, and to share the good news with all that we can. Let's also remember our Annie Armstrong Home Mission emphasis this week.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

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**TAIWAN SCHOOL OPEN DOOR TO CHRISTIANS:** TAIPEI, Taiwan — In an effort to combat escalating juvenile crime, the Taiwan government's department of education has called on religious groups to help with the moral education of the nation's young people. The call has opened the way for religious activities in public schools, and Christian educators are seizing the opportunity to share Christ with young people. For example, a junior high school principal has invited Rebekah Chen, a religious education teacher at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, to lead Christian fellowship activities for the school. More than 80 students have indicated an interest in participating, and she hopes to involve seminary students in this ministry. Janice Chen is a Christian teacher in a junior high school and a member of a local Baptist church. Her principal asked that she design a program of Christian instruction and activities.

**SLUMP IN HUNGER GIVING BY BAPTISTS CONTINUES:** NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Baptists gave an average of 52 cents per person to meet worldwide hunger needs in 1991, according to figures from the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign and Home Mission boards. The 15 million Southern Baptists, who comprise the nation's largest Protestant denomination, gave \$7,828,996 in 1991 through their national mission boards, which are responsible for hunger ministries. "We gave individually for an entire year the cost of one can of soda to feed the hungry," said Robert Parham, who heads the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics. "For a wealthy denomination like ours, that amount is a far cry even from the biblical imperative of giving a cup of water in Jesus' name. It's more like an eyedropper."

**BAPTIST CHOIR PERFORMANCES ON INDIAN TV:** BANGALORE, India — A 25-member choir from Bangalore Baptist Hospital appeared on statewide television in late December and used singing and chime arrangements to communicate the message of Christmas. The "Medichoir" and "Medichimes" taped two musical programs for airing Dec. 25 and Dec. 31 after friends of the hospital contacted the program director of a local television station. "This was an unparalleled opportunity for witness through mass media," said missionary surgeon Rebekah Naylor, who directed and accompanied the choir. The "Medichoir" was organized in 1987 and has performed all over Bangalore, a city in southern India.

**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (BP)** — Eight people received awards for outstanding accomplishments in language missions and church starting during a leadership conference sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Dolores Thomas, a missionary in Maine for 30 years, received the Jack Redford Award for outstanding leadership in starting new churches. Thomas, who took over her husband's work as a church starter following his death in 1976, has started nine churches in Maine. Five state Baptist convention leaders involved in language missions work were presented "Kaleidoscopic" awards, including Jerry St. John of South Carolina, former Mississippian, for starting language churches.

**YOUTHLINK 2000 PLANNED TO RING IN MILLENNIUM:** The Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council recently approved preliminary plans for YouthLink 2000 — simultaneous youth celebrations at indoor stadiums and convention centers across the United States Dec. 29-31, 1999. Organizers hope to draw more than 120,000 young people to the three day event.

"Only once since the birth of Christ have Christians welcomed in a new millennium," said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Sunday School Board and co-chairman of the YouthLink 2000 steering committee. "Today's children — tomorrow's youth — will have the chance to welcome it together in a series of celebrations that will likely be the launch for a new dream to follow Bold Mission Thrust."

**EUROPEANS POSTPONE FMB TALKS UNTIL PARKS' FUTURE SETTLED:** HAMBURG, Germany (ABP) — The executive committee of the European Baptist Federation has postponed talks with the Foreign Mission Board until after FMB trustees determine the fate of board president Keith Parks. "As soon as the situation concerning the future of Dr. Parks and others is clear, we will establish a date for the meeting, maybe in May," explained Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. Parks has asked trustees to decide by their April 6-8 meeting if he will remain as president of the Foreign Mission Board. Trustees have scheduled a private two-day meeting with Parks March 19-20 to discuss the matter.

**FELLOWSHIP GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL DECIDE FUTURE DIRECTION:** FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Decisions will be made regarding the future direction of the ministry and missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during the organization's general assembly April 30-May 2 at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. "At the general assembly, Baptist ideas will live," said CBF moderator John Hewett of Asheville, N.C. "Every free Baptist will have the right to speak. Dissenting voices will be heard. Local church autonomy will be honored. The priesthood of every believer will be respected." Since it was formed in Atlanta in May 1991, the Fellowship has begun to structure its work in five areas: world missions, theological education, literature for Christian education, ethics and public policy, and equipping the laity. In 1991 contributions to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship totaled \$4,517,000.

## BWA communication conference is first for Papua, New Guinea

**MOUNT HAGAN, Papua, New Guinea (BP)** — Baptists in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, Indonesia, were given basic tools to write their own Bible study materials and produce publications and photographs during a Christian writers and communicators conference sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance in the western highlands of Papua, New Guinea.

A few participants came by plane; some walked. But most came on the back of a flatbed truck down the winding mountainous dirt roads.

Fifty-two Baptists from Papua, New Guinea, including 18 women; three from Irian Jaya; and two aborigines from the Northern Territory of Australia joined eight BWA leaders for the conference.

"This is the first time in our history as Baptists we have had anything like this," said Kongoe Sipwanji, president of the Baptist Union of Papua, New Guinea.

The two-part conference, Feb. 10-13,

included a Christian writers section on the basics of writing Bible study and Sunday School materials for adults, youth, and children, and a communicators section for journalism and photography.

The teaching staff included Southern Baptists, New Zealand Baptists, and Australian Baptists, all housed in the homes of Australian Baptist Missionary Society workers.

Challenged by Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA to "interpret for your people what the great gospel of Jesus Christ is all about," conference participants attended lectures and received course materials on curriculum and journalistic writing.

Perhaps the most popular short course was the one on photography, taught by Jim Veneman, photojournalist of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Baptist Press.

Matias Jarollo from Irian Jaya who received all his instructions through an interpreter who translated from English to Indonesian, wrote of his ap-

preciation for the photography course. "I learned how to take a good picture and the process of developing it until it is finished," Jarollo said.

Jangala won the hearts of conference participants when he sang an aboriginal Christian song "God sent his Son to our country" accompanied by the tapping and vibrating of two boomerangs. Normally used to kill, "the boomerangs were now redeemed," Jangala said.

While many aborigines in Australia can now read English, he said the message of the gospel must primarily be taught through the symbols of their everyday life, which have come down from their ancestors and can be traced in the sand.

While Baptists in Papua, New Guinea have produced some publications, none of them have been written by the Baptists there, but by Australian Baptist missionaries whose work began there in 1949 and whose ministry has fostered a Baptist movement of 35,600 baptized believers.

## Peruvian vice president says God gives security, not guards

**SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)** — Although terrorist groups are a constant threat to his life, Peruvian vice president Carlos Garcia said he depends more on the security of God than on the security guards who try to protect him.

Garcia, a former Baptist pastor who is one of the few evangelical Christians elected to public office in South America, said he lives in a world of danger and violence. Garcia was elected Peru's second vice president last year along with President Alberto Fujimori, a Peruvian of Japanese ancestry.

"The lives of political leaders in my country are in constant danger," Garcia told the language church extension

leadership conference sponsored in San Antonio, Texas, by the Home Mission Board.

In an interview, Garcia said Peruvian evangelicals also are under threat of terrorist attacks from such guerrilla groups as "Sendero Luminoso" (Shining Path) which he said has formed "a diabolical alliance with drug traffickers."

"About 400 Christian evangelicals have been assassinated by this group in the last seven years," he said. "Among them, about 35 to 40 pastors have been killed." Two expatriate staff members of World Vision International, a world relief agency which works with the poor in 90 countries, also have been murdered. An estimated 25,000 terrorist-related

deaths have been recorded in Peru in the past 11 years.

Shining Path, whose members embrace Maoist principles, and Tupac Amaru, a group that advocates a Castro-style revolution, blast evangelicals as "agents of American imperialism," Garcia said.

Terrorist groups also say the evangelicals' coordinated aid from outside agencies offers only stop-gap solutions to Peru's poor economy.

About half of Peru's population live in poverty, he said.

Although it is not very large, Shining Path attempts to implement its "new democracy" through selected killings, Garcia said.

"They have used the extortion of business people for money and they have killed politicians and farmers and poor people who are not of their philosophy."

The new slate of elected leaders in Peru has given Peruvian evangelicals a high visibility and important role in government after 500 years of Catholic control of the country, Garcia said.

## Man at university helm balances faith, duty

By Marv Knox

**BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (BP)** — Tom Meredith walks a spiritual-professional tightrope.

As president of Western Kentucky University and deacon at First Church of Bowling Green, Meredith is a practicing Christian in a very public arena.

"The Scripture verse that drives me is Matthew 5:16: 'Let your light so shine before men that your works will glorify your Father in heaven,'" he explained.

"It's incumbent upon me to live a daily life and to operate this university in a way that will reflect positively on my Christian faith."

"I hope all my daily decision-making reflects that commitment."

Meredith appreciates the doctrine of separation of church and state, and his role as a Christian and state university president demands that he balance personal perspectives and professional responsibilities.

"There are those who think a public university president should avoid any public connection to the church but I

don't believe that. I don't impose my values on our students, faculty, or staff but I certainly don't try to hide them."

A Christian's place in a public job lies "somewhere between never being afraid to demonstrate your Christian faith and not appearing to use it to your advantage," Meredith said. "I don't want it to even appear to be showy — that I'm doing it for personal gain or political reasons. But I shouldn't shy away from it or be afraid to be genuine with it."

Meredith himself is familiar with academic accomplishment. A native of Owensboro, he earned a bachelor's degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College there, a master's from Western Kentucky and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He's been a schoolteacher, public school administrator, college teacher, and higher education executive.

Immediately before going to Western, he was vice chancellor for executive affairs at Ole Miss.

Knox is editor of WESTERN RECORDER in Kentucky.

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